

ASPLENIUM SERRATUM IN SOUTH FLORIDA.—One of the most impressive ferns to be found in South Florida, in my opinion, is *Asplenium serratum*, one of the so-called Bird's-nest Ferns. I grow this strikingly attractive plant in my garden, and have in relatively recent times had the pleasure of observing it in the wild.

In this southern part of peninsular Florida, *Asplenium serratum* occurs primarily as a true epiphyte, perched on mossy, frequently horizontal branches, oftentimes in close proximity to *Campyloneurum phyllitidis*. Ten or fifteen years ago it was reasonably common in certain selected localities, even including a couple of the hammock formations within the city limits of Miami. But the inexorable advance of the bulldozer coupled with over-zealous amateur (and commercial) fern collectors have made it now a distinct rarity hereabouts.

For instance, in Matheson Hammock, a jungled area adjacent to our wonderful Fairchild Tropical Garden, this *Asplenium* in former days could readily be seen on many of the large trees of Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) and Mastic (*Sideroxylon foetidissimum*) from the main trails which traverse this protected park. But recent search has disclosed only a half-dozen or so specimens still remaining, and these, fortunately, are well hidden from the casual visitor's view.

The vivid, glossy, bright-green fronds of this fern form a neat ascending vaselike specimen, much less dense than its Old World ally *Asplenium nidus*. They may, in exceptional cases, reach lengths in excess of two feet, though they are generally considerably shorter. The new fronds appear from the center of the plant in a single flush of growth, and expand with remarkable rapidity.

I keep this glorious fern rather firmly potted in a mixture of osmunda and shredded tree-fern fiber, much like that utilized for orchids and bromeliads. Rather deep shade seems essential, and constantly moist conditions are apparently obligatory as well. Periodic applications of an organic fertilizer have proved to be beneficial.

Though *Asplenium serratum* is widespread in the American tropics, it appears infrequently in cultivation. This is regrettable, since it is a spectacular fern of easily-met cultural needs that would grace any collection of ferns.—ALEX D. HAWKES, P. O. Box 435, Coconut Grove, Florida 33133.

### Notes and News

EXTRA COPIES OF THE FERN BULLETIN.—Professor W. W. Judd, Department of Zoology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada, has 36 issues of the *Fern Bulletin*, predecessor of the AMERICAN FERN JOURNAL, for sale at one dollar each. The issues are: vol. 5 nos. 1, 2, and 4, vol. 6 no. 4, vols. 9–12 nos. 1–4, vol. 13 nos. 1–3, vol. 14 nos. 3 and 4, vol. 15 nos. 1 and 2, vol. 16 no. 2, vol. 17 nos. 2–4, and vol. 18 nos. 1–4. Anyone wishing to fill gaps in his own library should write to Professor Judd directly.—D.B.L.

A NEW FERN GARDEN ON THE CANARY ISLANDS.—In 1965, at Tafira Alta (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, Spain), a new private fern garden was founded, called the "Pteridarium E. B. Copeland." It was begun with native plants and other locally obtained species. Thanks to the generous provision of numbers of living plants from Kew Gardens and from the Botanical Gardens of Berlin, Antwerp, Leiden, München, and Tübingen, as well as from some commercial nurseries in Spain and The Netherlands, the number of species grown successfully in 1966 has risen to about two hundred, plus some varieties and cultivars. This number includes both true ferns and fern-allies. The plants are growing in a warmhouse and a coolhouse as well as out-of-doors.

The "Pteridarium E. B. Copeland," honoring the memory of the great American pteridologist Edwin Bingham Copeland (1873–1964), is a purely private foundation. Its purpose is the development of a small but specialized botanical garden for the preservation of certain species, the study of adaptation of plants, and to provide our visiting students of ferns with as much material as possible from living plants. After 1967 it is